

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A computer-implemented method for managing tasks, the method comprising steps of:

2       accessing a first server from a client;

3       retrieving by the first server status information associated with tasks stored on a

4       database for display to the client;

5       receiving an instruction for managing the tasks;

6       responsive to the instruction received, generating updates to the status

7       information; and

8       providing the status information as updated for display at the client.

1 2. The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of

2       encapsulating functions associated with the tasks as programmable objects.

1 3. The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein the tasks comprises a

2       plurality of attributes selected from a group comprising a description, a completion date,

3       a priority indicator, a duration indicator, an originator, and an assignee.

1 4. The computer-implemented method of Claim 3, wherein the step of generating

2       updates to the status information comprises the sub-steps of:

3       tracking a completion date associated with at least one of the tasks;

4       determining a failure to complete the at least one task by the completion date

5       corresponding thereto; and

6       providing notification of the failure.

- 1 5. The computer-implemented method of Claim 4, wherein providing notification  
2 comprises the sub-steps of:  
3 determining an assignee having responsibility for completing the task for which  
4 failure was determined; and  
5 forwarding a notification to a manager associated with the assignee.
- 1 6. The computer-implemented method of Claim 3, further comprising the steps of:  
2 determining whether a user instruction is associated with an authorized user; and  
3 responsive to a determination that the user instruction is associated with an  
4 authorized user, modifying the status information based on the user instruction.
- 1 7. The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein the step of generating  
2 updates to the status information comprises the sub-steps of:  
3 modifying the status information based on the user instruction; and  
4 storing modified status information in the database.
- 1 8. The computer-implemented method of Claim 7, wherein the step of modifying the  
2 status information comprises the sub-steps of:  
3 determining a class associated with a group of tasks;  
4 verifying that the class includes a parameter enabling modification of the status  
5 information; and  
6 responsive to verification that the class includes a parameter enabling  
7 modification, modifying the status information in accordance with the  
8 parameter.

1 9. The computer-implemented method of Claim 8, wherein the class is selected from a  
2 group comprising users, managers, and administrators.

1 10. The computer-implemented method of Claim 9, further comprising the step of  
2 associating access permission with the parameter by an administrator.

1 11. The computer-implemented method of Claim 9, further comprising the step of  
2 assigning tasks to a selected user.

1 12. The computer-implemented method of Claim 9, wherein the status information  
2 indicates to the users the tasks to be completed.

1 13. The computer-implemented method of Claim 9, wherein the status information  
2 indicates to the managers the tasks that are overdue.

1 14. The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein the user instruction is  
2 selected from a group comprising an update to a task, and creation of a new task.

1 15. The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
2 maintaining a representation of the status information on the first server;  
3 modifying the status information with the updates; and  
4 storing the modified status information to the database.

1 16. A method for integrating status information with updated information, the method  
2 comprising the steps of:

3       accessing an account in response to an instruction received from a user;  
 4       receiving the status information associated with the account from a database;  
 5       receiving the updated information for modifying the status information from the  
 6       user; and  
 7       forming a combined presentation of the status information modified by the  
 8       updated information, wherein the combined presentation includes a  
 9       representation of the status information received from the database and a  
 10      representation of the updated information.

1    17. The method of Claim 16, further comprising the step of transferring the combined  
 2    presentation to a client computer for display.

1    18. The method of Claim 16, further comprising the step of storing the status information  
 2    modified by the updated information on the database.

1    19. The method of Claim 17, wherein the status information comprises a plurality of  
 2    tasks and a plurality of anomalies.

1    20. The method of Claim 19, further comprising the steps of:  
 2       assigning a completion date to a first one of the tasks;  
 3       determining whether the first one of the tasks was completed by the completion  
 4       date;  
 5       indicating that the first one of the tasks is an incomplete task if it is determined  
 6       that the first one of the tasks was not completed by the completion date; and

7 providing notification of the incomplete task to an additional account for initiating  
8 follow up.

1 21. The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of providing notification of the incomplete  
2 task comprises the sub-steps of:

3 determining a user associated with the account having responsibility for  
4 completing the incomplete task; and  
5 transmitting the notification to the additional account assigned to a manager  
6 associated with the user.

1 22. The method of Claim 19, wherein accessing an account in response to an instruction  
2 received from a user comprises the sub-steps of:

3 receiving a user identification number and a password from the instruction;  
4 accessing the database to authenticate the user identification number and the  
5 password; and  
6 responsive to the user identification number and the password being  
7 authenticated, enabling access to the account.

1 23. The method of Claim 22, further comprising the sub-step of generating an error  
2 message for display on the client computer responsive to the user identification number  
3 and the password being unauthenticated.

1 24. The method of Claim 19, wherein the step of receiving the status information  
2 associated with the account comprises the sub-steps of:

3 extracting state information from the instruction; and

4 determining whether a user-defined display format is associated with the state  
5 information exists.

1 25. The method of Claim 24, further comprising the sub-steps of:

2 responsive to determining that the user-defined display format exists, retrieving  
3 the user-defined display format from the database; and  
4 determining whether the user-defined display format is associated with one or  
5 more of the tasks and the anomalies.

1 26. The method of Claim 25, further comprising the step of incorporating the user-  
2 defined display format with the tasks and the anomalies in the combined presentation in  
3 response to the user-defined display format being associated with the tasks and the  
4 anomalies.

1 27. The method of Claim 25, further comprising the step of incorporating a default  
2 display format in the combined presentation responsive to the user-defined display format  
3 being un-associated with the tasks and the anomalies.

1 28. The method of Claim 24, further comprising the sub-step of :  
2 responsive to determining that the user-defined display format does not exist,  
3 retrieving a default display format from a server; and  
4 extracting the tasks and the anomalies associated with the user from the database.

1 29. The method of Claim 28, further comprising the step of incorporating the tasks and  
2 the anomalies extracted with the default display format in the combined presentation.

1 30. The method of Claim 16, wherein the combined presentation includes at least one  
2 form for representing the status information.

1 31. The method of Claim 16, wherein accessing an account in response to an instruction  
2 received from a user comprises the sub-steps of:

3 processing requests received in the instruction to identify the user; and  
4 coordinating the requests in order to access and control the account.

1 32. A computer-implemented method for tracking work flow information, the method  
2 comprising the steps of:

3 accessing an account on a server from a client by a user;  
4 displaying the work flow information in response to accessing the account  
5 according to the position of the user;  
6 modifying the information with updates; and  
7 storing the information modified to the database.

1 33. The computer-implemented method of Claim 32, wherein the information displayed  
2 is selected from a group comprising tasks to be completed, and anomalies that are  
3 incomplete.

1 34. The computer-implemented method of Claim 33, further comprising the steps of:  
2 assigning each of the task a serial number; and  
3 identifying each of the tasks by the serial number corresponding thereto when the  
4 information is received.

1 35. The computer-implemented method of Claim 32, further comprising the step of  
2 selecting an order in which the information is displayed.

1 36. The computer-implemented method of Claim 33, wherein the account is associated  
2 with a user selected from a group comprising users, managers, and administrators.

1 37. The computer-implemented method of Claim 36, wherein step of modifying the  
2 information with updates includes a user defining an anomaly associated with the work  
3 low information.

1 38. The computer-implemented method of Claim 37, wherein the step of modifying the  
2 information with updates includes a manager assigning at least one of the users the  
3 anomaly for rectification.

1 39. A system for tracking status information, comprising:  
2 a server for accessing an account in response to an instruction received from a  
3 client device communicatively coupled to the server;  
4 coupled to the server, a database for providing the status information associated  
5 with the account based on the instruction received;  
6 a module for maintaining a copy of the status information on the server; and  
7 a module for forming a combined presentation of the copy of status information  
8 and updates provided by the client device.



1 40. A computer program product for deriving services through one or more accounts  
2 from a database, the computer program product stored on a computer readable medium,  
3 and adapted to perform the operations of:  
4 accessing the accounts at a server in response to user instructions received;  
5 the server extracting status information from the databases for a plurality of tasks  
6 associated with the online account;  
7 updating the status information based on the user instructions; and  
8 storing the status information updated on the databases.

9 42. A program product for tracking completion of tasks from at least one account, the  
10 program product stored on a computer readable medium and adapted to perform the  
11 operations of:  
12 accessing the account through sign-on over a first server;  
13 responsive to user input, selecting particular ones of the tasks for viewing status  
14 information corresponding thereto;  
15 providing updates for the status information, the updates related to completion of  
16 the particular ones of the tasks; and  
17 storing the updates for the status information to the online account.